

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 01857 01 OF 02 131856Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07 AGRE-00

AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 /110 W

-----039933 131932Z /40

R 131000Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2484

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMMBASSY DAKAR 1008

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LOME 1857

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ECIN TO US UR XA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT EYADEMA ON CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN EVENTS

REF: MONROVIA 4761

1. SUMMARY INTRODUCTION: PRESIDENT EYADEMA TOOK THE OCCASION OF THE 6-10 JULY VISIT OF REVEREND LEON SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR OF OICI, TO DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS CONCERNING SOVIET ACTIVITY IN AFRICA, US-TOGOLESE BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE GENERAL ROLE THAT TOGO IS SEEKING TO PLAY WITHIN THE NASCENT MODERATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOME 01857 01 OF 02 131856Z

CONCERT OF AFRICAN STATES. EYADEMA HAD ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT AND IT WAS STILL MUCH ON HIS MIND. SIMILARLY, HE WAS SEEKING TO EFFECT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT, WHOSE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE IN LOME THE SAME PERIOD AS REVEREND SULLIVAN, AND IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE WAS WEAVING THESE SEVERAL STRANDS TOGETHER IN HIS MIND AS HE DISCUSSED AFRICAN ISSUES WITH SULLIVAN. THE INITIAL

EYADEMA-SULLIVAN INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE ON JULY 7 AND LASTED NEARLY AN HOUR, AFTER THE TWO MEN FOUND THAT THEY RESPONDED WELL TO EACH OTHER. ON JULY 8 EYADEMA SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF SULLIVAN AND THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS SUCH AS THE ONE THAT OICI IS TRYING TO MAKE AT A CLOSED SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF HIS RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS. ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF PLAN DOGO, EYADEMA PRAISED EFFORTS OF MEN OF GOOD WILL, SUCH AS SULLIVAN, IN ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS IN AFRICA. THE SECOND INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE ON JULY 9 WHEN THE PRESIDENT TOOK THE PASTOR NORTH TO EYADEMA'S NATAL VILLAGE OF PYA WHERE THE TOGOLESE PRESIDENT INVITED SULLIVAN TO TAKE HONORS WITH HIM AND TO REVIEW THE MASSES OF MILITARY AND PARTY FAITHFUL WHO HAD BEEN CONVOKED THERE. THE JULY 9 INTERVIEWS LASTED FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF IN THE MORNING AND AN HOUR IN THE AFTERNOON, WITH A PUBLIC BANQUET INTERVENING. EYADEMA APPEARED ACUTELY CONSCIOUS THAT SULLIVAN HAD ACCESS TO SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND SULLIVAN PROMISED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE RELAYED TO BOTH SECRETARY VANCE AND PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. SOVIET ACTIVITY IN AFRICA: EYADEMA EMPHASIZED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL HIS CONCEPT THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SEEKING, UNRELENTINGLY TO BUILD UP ZONES OF INFLUENCE IN AFRICA THROUGH THE MANIPULATION OF PUPPET STATES. HE REVIEWED US ACTIVITIES DURING THE ANGOLA CRISIS OF 1976 AND SPOKE OF THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF MODERATE STATES IN THE US

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LOME 01857 01 OF 02 131856Z

FAILURE TO COUNTER THE MPLA'S SEIZURE OF POWER IN ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT THE FOOTHOLD THAT THE SOVIETS HAD GAINED IN ANGOLA HAD THEN ENABLED THEM, BY PROXY, TO SUPPORT THE INVASION OF THE KATANGAN MERCENARIES IN SHABA PROVINCE IN ZAIRE. TAKING A MAP, EYADEMA NOTED THAT THE CLEAR SOVIET INTENTION HAD BEEN TO SET UP A "LIBERATED" ZONE IN ZAIRE FROM WHICH THE REMAINDER OF ZAIRE WOULD HAVE THEN BEEN SUBVERTED. THE RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MASSIVE ULCER IN THE HEART OF AFRICA AND AN INEXORABLE RISE IN SOVIET INFLUENCE FROM BRAZZAVILLE TO THE BORDERS OF SOUTH AFRICA. EYADEMA SAID THAT THE DEFEAT OF THE 1977 SHABA INCURSION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN MORE THAN A TEMPORARY SETBACK FOR SUBVERSIVE FORCES. TIME HAS BEEN GAINED, HOWEVER, MEANWHILE, HE NOTED SEAT SOVIET ACTIVITIES PERSIST IN THE HORN, MALI, GUINEA AND BENIN WHICH WILL NEED TO BE COUNTERED BY THE OCCIDENT. THE PRESIDENT REPEATEDLY STRESSED TO REVEREND SULLIVAN HIS CONVICTION THAT THE US MUST CONTINUE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE BOTH IN ASSISTING AFRICA DEVELOPMENTALLY AND CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS POLITICALLY TO RESOLVE DISPUTES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE PRESIDENT SAID TO SULLIVAN "IF THE US STANDS IDLY BY AND DOES NOTHING AT THIS CRITICAL PERIOD IN AFRICAN HISTORY, IT WILL BE CONDEMNED BY HISTORY. IF IT DOES TAKE A ROLE

IN DEFEATING THE SOVIET DESIGNS IN AFRICA, HISTORY WILL
THANK YOUR PEOPLE."

3. MODERATES MORALE BOOSTED BY SHABA FAILURE: EYADEMA
SAID THE CRICIAL THING WAS THAT FRANCE AND "THE OCCIDENT"
HAD COME TO THE AID OF ZAIRE AND THE 1977 INCURSION HAD
BEEN DEFEATED. OBVIOUSLY, THE MODERATE STATES DO NOT WISH
TO BE ABANDONED AND THE WESTERN EFFORT IN WHICH THE MOROCCANS
PARTICIPATED HAD HAD AN IMPORTANT EFFECT IN BOUYING MODERATE
MORALE. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT AFFECTED
THE MODERATES' PREPARATION FOR THE OAU SUMMIT. AS THE MODER-
ATES CONCERNED IN ADVANCE OF THE OAU USMMIT, THE MEMORY OF
THE SUCCESS IN SHABA WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR. EYADEMA SAID
THAT TOGO HAD WORKED WITH SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, GABON AND NIGERIA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LOME 01857 01 OF 02 131856Z

IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON PUSHING THROUGH A RESOLUTION AT THE OAU
SUMMIT CONDENMING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS;
SUCH INTERFERENCE WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE THAT OF THE
USSR AND CUBA. THE MODERATES HAD ALSO SUCCEEDED IN GETTING
THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL ACCEPTED FOR A PERMANENT MEDIATION
COMMISSION WHICH MODERATES WILL DOMINATE. HE SAID THAT HE
DOUBTED THAT SUCH EFFECTIVE ACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE
ON THE PART OF THE MODERATES IF SHABA HAD GONE THE OTHER WAY
AND THE OCCIDENT HAD NOT RESPONDED. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED
THROUGH THIS DISCUSSION THE NEED FOR THE US TO TAKE A

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 01857 02 OF 02 131818Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07 AGRE-00

AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 /110 W

-----039495 131934Z /40

R 121000Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2485

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LOME 1857

GREATER ROLE IN AFRICA; TO SUPPORT THE MODERATE STATES;
AND TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN STATES.
EYADEMA SAID THAT AFRICA HAS TIES TO EUROPE WHICH ARE
HISTORICAL AND WHICH WILL BE MAINTAINED AND THAT IT WAS IN
THE US INTEREST TO JOIN MORE FULLY IN PARTICIPATING IN
THE DEVELOPMENTAL AND POLITICAL EFFORT THAT THE FORMER
EUROPEAN COLONIAL POWERS WERE MAKING IN AFRICA.

4. US ECONOMIC ROLE: REVEREND SULLIVAN GENERALLY DID NOT
COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA
MADE. HE LISTENED HOWEVER WITH OBVIOUS SYMPATHY TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOME 01857 02 OF 02 131818Z

PRESIDENT'S ANALYSIS. WHEN SULLIVAN'S OPPORTUNITY CAME TO
ASK EYADEMA TO BE MORE PRECISE WITH RESPECT TO HOW THE
PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE UNITED STATES COULD BE MORE HELPFUL,
THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT TO DATE HAD BEEN
LIMITED ESSENTIALLY TO THE ANGLOPHONE STATES WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF ZAIRE AND IVORY COAST. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT INCREASED
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WAS FUNDAMENTAL SO THAT THE GOVERNMENTS
OF AFRICA COULD FEED THEIR PEOPLE AND MOVE ON TO QUESTIONS OF
INCREASING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. AT THIS POINT SULLIVAN INTER-
VENED TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE EFFECTS THAT HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO
UNDERTAKE IN TERMS OF ACHIEVING GREATER PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST
IN SPECIFIC AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT A GENERAL MOTORS
PLANT HAD BEEN SET UP IN KENYA FOLLOWING HIS RECOMMENDATION.
AT THIS POINT, IT TURNED OUT THAT EYADEMA DID NOT KNOW WHAT
GENERAL MOTORS WAS. WHEN SULLIVAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COMPANY
HAD HAD SALES OF \$50 BILLION IN ITS LAST YEAR, EYADEMA FOUND
IT DIFFICULT TO GRASP THE SIZE OF THE COMPANY. NEVERTHELESS,
RESPONDING TO SULLIVAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE REASON THE GM
PLANT HAD BEEN SET UP IN KENYA WAS BECAUSE OF THE REGIONAL
MARKET, THE PRESIDENT CALLED SULLIVAN'S ATTENTION TO THE
ECOWAS MARKET OF 130 MILLION PEOPLE AND 16 COUNTRIES. EYADEMA
DISCUSSED THE ROLE HE HAD PLAYED IN HELPING ECOWAS COME INTO
EXISTENCE AND HOW IT WAS ENVISAGED THE ORGANIZATION WOULD WORK.

(NOTE: SULLIVAN WAS GREATLY INTERESTED BY THE ECOWAS CONCEPT AND WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY ON JULY 10 TO MEET ROMEO HORTON, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE ECOWAS FUND. HORTON BRIEFED SULLIVAN IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON CAPITALIZATION PLANS FOR THE FUND AND THE PROJECTS WHICH THE FUND'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL APPROVE LATER IN JULY. SULLIVAN INVITED HORTON TO SEND HIM MORE INFORMATION ON ECOWAS AND TO VISIT HIM IN PHILADELPHIA IN SEPTEMBER FOR POSSIBLE MEETINGS WITH OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE MARKET REPRESENTED IN THE ECOWAS AREA.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LOME 01857 02 OF 02 131818Z

TM EYADEMA VISIT TO THE US?: REVEREND SULLIVAN ASKED PRESIDENT EYADEMA WHETHER HE PLANNED TO VISIT THE US IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EYADEMA SAID HE HOPED TO DO SO AND HE NOTED THAT IV GRANTEE COMMANDANT AMEGEE, CHEF DE CIRCONSCRIPTION OF LAMA KARA. HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO THE US, THE FIRST MILITARY OFFICER TO DO SO, AND HAD BEEN EXTREMELY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND HOW HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED. EYADEMA SAID HE HIMSELF WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING THE US AND SULLIVAN SAID HE WOULD MAKE THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST KNOWN WHEN HE SPOKE TO SECRETARY VANCE AND TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT HIS VISIT TO AFRICA.

6. COMMENT: IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT EYADEMA AND SULLIVAN APPEAR TO HAVE MADE GOOD IMPRESSIONS ON ONE ANOTHER. EYADEMA SPOKE OF SULLIVAN'S VISIT AS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR " AN OPENING" IN US-TOGOLESE BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE MEETING BETWEEN EYADEMA AND SULLIVAN TOOK PLACE WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF EYADEMA'S ADVISERS. AT PYA, I WAS THE INTERPRETER. EYADEMA WAS RELAXED AND OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE SUCCESS HE AND THE MODERATES HAD HAD IN LIBREVILLE. HE ALSO EVIDENCED CONSIDERABLE PRIDE IN THE ROLE HE HAD PLAYED IN PREPARING THE WAY,PERHAPS, FOR A EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RECONCILIATION (SEE SEPTTEL). HIS REMARKS APPEARED BOTH CANDID AND SINCERE. HE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE US WITH ALACRITY.

7. I NOTED THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT ADDRESSED SOME OF THESE SAME THEMES IN AMBASSADOR CARTER'S REFERENCE MESSAGE.
PALMER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME01857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0905
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770763/aaaaccil.tel
Line Count: 268
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13fa576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONROVIA 4761
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1879718
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT EYADEMA ON CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN EVENTS
TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, TO, US, UR, XA, OICI, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBE), (SULLIVAN, LEON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13fa576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009